

REMARKS:

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 13, 17-19, and 21 are pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims.

By this Amendment, claims 13, 17-19 and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Thus, claims 13, 17-19 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 20 remain cancelled.

The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §101:

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 13, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

The Examiner asserts that the claims do not meet the 'machine-or-transformation' test outlined in In re Bilski, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection based on the following reasons.

Claim 13, for example, is directed to electronically authorizing or repudiating an electronically processed task. As the review process is implemented "electronically" where "an electronic authorization or repudiation of said tasks" is executed, the method is apparently tied to a machine, which is within the statutory subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that since "electronically authorizing or repudiating" pertains to or is concerned with use of a device (i.e., not a mental step), the claim 13 complies with USPTO's current 35 USC 101 statutory subject matter requirement by expressly tying the claim to a particular apparatus. See also independent claims 17-19 and 21 having similar recitations. The method is directed to a review process and as such the "electronic authorization or repudiation" is not representative of an extra-solution activity as asserted by the Examiner.

Further, Applicants also submit that the independent claims call for transforming element(s) of a current task to be electronically authorized based on matching elements of already reviewed tasks. Accordingly, the underlying subject matter (the current task) is transformed to a different state or thing (a display with designated check point for review).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112:

In item 11 on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 13, 17-19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this Amendment, claims 13, 17-19, and 21 have been amended and no longer include the language in the form rejected by the Examiner.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103:

In item 12 on page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 (Nummelin) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 (Abbruzzese) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,535 (Underwood). The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of the remaining claims.

The cited references do not teach or suggest "among said elements forming the current task to be electronically authorized, an element [of the current task] matching at least one of said elements of the previously reviewed tasks is designated as a check point for review" when a number of repudiation reasons in comparison to a number of authorizations of said elements for the reviewed tasks and the user meet a predetermined condition", as recited in claim 13 for example. See claims 17, 18, 19 and 20 reciting similar features.

In contrast to the "retrieving repudiation reasons of elements of previously reviewed tasks in association with a current task" which is submitted for review, Nummelin merely maintains information of different stages of the same task for only planning and scheduling of that specific task (see, col. 7, lines 24-37).

On the other hand, the diary function of Abbruzzese merely discusses records specified date of a current claim (activity to be reviewed) and does not consider records of the current claims with records of other claims that have already been reviewed.

As previously discussed, the independent claims patentably distinguish over Nummelin and Abbruzzese. Further, as Underwood merely discusses a change request tracker indicating a change pertaining to the same work product or request that is work-in-progress (see, col. 209, lines 10-24), Underwood does not cure the deficiencies of Nummelin and Abbruzzese regarding claims of the present application.

Underwood is silent regarding tracking of a change between a completed (reviewed) task and one under review. As explicitly stated at col. 209, lines 10-15 of Underwood, the change tracker only pertains to "a change request from the time the request is entered to the time the request is closed, after completing an evaluation of the change in production."

Claim 13, by way of example, is directed to providing "a check point" when "a number of repudiation reasons in comparison to a number of authorizations of said elements for the reviewed tasks and the user meet a predetermined condition." See claims 17, 18, 19 and 20 reciting similar features.

Further, even assuming arguendo that Underwood does disclose the features discussed by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine the cited references. The Examiner stated that the combination of the references would be obvious in order to create a controlled environment for projected development.

The record, however, fails to provide the required evidence of a motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to perform such modification. For example, while Underwood may provide a reason for tracking a change to a request previously made, Nummelin and Abbruzzese fail to suggest why a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to incorporate the tracking of a change to a request itself from the time the request is entered to the time closed, such as discussed in Underwood.

Claims depending from the independent claims include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed by the cited references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, claims 13, 17-19 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 20 remain cancelled.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

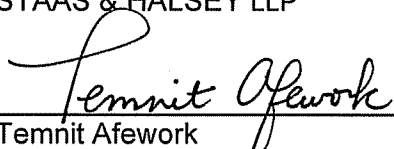
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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